GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1270
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Use of Regional Languages in Courts
Patel Smt. Jayshreeben ;Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operational division benches in the High Courts in the country;

(b) the pending demand for establishment of Division Benches, State-wise;

(c) the details of those High Courts where hearing is allowed in regional languages;

(d) whether the Government are mulling about hearing to be allowed in regional languages in courts and has received proposals from the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : Setting up of division benches in the High Courts are within the administrative control of the Chief Justices of the High Courts. The Government has no control over the administrative functioning of the High Court. As such, no information is maintained by the Central Government in this regard.
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(c) : Use of Regional Languages has, so far, not been allowed in the hearings of the High Courts. However, use of Hindi has been authorized in the proceedings in the High Courts of the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(d) & (e): Based on requests from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh the Government sought the advice of the Chief Justice of India as per a decision of Cabinet taken in 1965. However, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India vide his d.o. letter dated 18.01.2016 has conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations disapproved the proposals and reiterated the Resolution which was adopted on 07.05.1997, on 15.10.1999 and on 11.10.2012.
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